

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving a message sent from a mobile device over a wireless network, the message for accessing a network-based application, the message having a source telephone number associated with a registered user of the mobile device and a destination telephone number associated with the network-based application; and

controlling access to the network-based application by the mobile device based on the source telephone number and the destination telephone number.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the message from the mobile device conforms to an asynchronous messaging protocol for sending person-to-person messages from mobile devices.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the message from the mobile device is an MMS message.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said controlling access to the application comprises:

determining whether the message is from an authorized user based on the source telephone number.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said determining whether the message is from an authorized user comprises looking up the source telephone number in an access control list.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said controlling access to the application comprises:

identifying the application based on the destination telephone number; and

invoking the application on behalf of the mobile device in response to the message.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile device comprises a mobile telephone, and wherein the source telephone number is a telephone number assigned to the mobile telephone.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the message from the mobile device is an MMS message.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising sending a result of invoking the application to the mobile device over the wireless network, the result for output by the mobile device to a user of the mobile device.

10. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the message from the mobile device is an MMS message, and wherein said sending the result comprises sending the result to the mobile device over the wireless network in a second MMS message.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising identifying the application according to a predetermined keyword in the message.

12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the method is performed at least partially within an intermediary processing system coupled to the wireless network and to a wireline computer network, the application residing on the wireline computer network;

the message from the mobile device is an MMS message; and

the method further comprises:

using the intermediary processing system to identify the application, based on the destination telephone number; and

using the intermediary processing system to invoke the application on behalf of the mobile device over the wireline computer network.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising sending a result of invoking the application to the mobile device over the wireless network as an MMS message, the result for output by the mobile device to a user of the mobile device.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the wireline computer network comprises the Internet, and wherein using the intermediary processing system to invoke the application comprises using HTTP to invoke the application.

15. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said controlling access to the network-based application is in response to detection of a predetermined indicator in the message.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein predetermined indicator indicates that the message is not destined for an end user.

17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the predetermined indicator comprises a predetermined character in the message.

18. A method comprising:

receiving, at an intermediary processing system, a first MMS message sent from a mobile device over a wireless network, as a request to access an application on a wireline computer network, wherein the mobile device comprises a mobile telephone, and wherein the first MMS message includes

a telephone number assigned to the mobile telephone and to a registered user of the mobile device and

a destination telephone number associated with the application;

detecting a predetermined indicator in the first MMS message; and

in response to detecting the predetermined indicator,

identifying the application based on the destination telephone number,

operating the intermediary processing system to invoke the application on behalf of the mobile device,

receiving a result of execution of the application, at the intermediary processing system over the wireline computer network, and

sending the result from the intermediary processing system to the mobile device over the wireless network as a second MMS message, the result for output by the mobile device to a user of the mobile device.

19. A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising identifying the application according to a predetermined keyword in the MMS message.

20. A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

using the telephone number assigned to the mobile telephone and a registered user of the mobile device to determine whether the MMS message is from an authorized user.

21. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the destination telephone number is assigned to a second user of a mobile device on a wireless network.

22. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the wireline computer network comprises the Internet.

23. A method comprising:

receiving a message initiated by a first application, the message having a source telephone number associated with the first application and a destination telephone number associated with a user of a mobile device on a wireless network, the message for invoking a second application with reference to the user of the mobile device; and

invoking the second application on behalf of the first application in response to the message, based on the destination telephone number.

24. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the destination telephone number is assigned to a second user of a mobile device on a wireless network.

wherein the message conforms to an asynchronous messaging protocol for sending person-to-person messages from mobile devices.

25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the message is an MMS message.

26. A method as recited in claim 25, wherein the message comprises an API call corresponding to the second application.

27. A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising:
determining whether the message represents an authorized request to invoke the second application based on the source telephone number.

28. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the mobile device comprises a mobile telephone, and wherein the destination telephone number is a telephone number assigned to the mobile telephone.

29. A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the message is an MMS message.

30. A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising sending to the first application a result of the second application executing with reference to the user of the mobile device.

31. A method as recited in claim 30, wherein the message is an MMS message, and wherein said sending the result comprises sending the result to the first application in a second MMS message.

32. A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising identifying the second application according to contents of the message.

33. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein:

the method is performed at least partially within an intermediary processing system coupled to the wireless network and to a wireline computer network, the second application residing on the wireline computer network;

the message is an MMS message; and

the method further comprises:

using the intermediary processing system to identify the second application based on the MMS message; and

using the intermediary processing system to send a result of invoking the second application to the first application.

34. A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the result of invoking the second application is sent by the intermediary processing system in an MMS message for delivery to the first application.

35. A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the wireline computer network comprises the Internet, and wherein invoking the second application comprises using HTTP to invoke the application.

36. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein said invoking the second application on behalf of the first application is in response to detection of a predetermined indicator in the message.

37. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the predetermined indicator comprises a predetermined character in the message.

38. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein predetermined indicator indicates that the message is not destined for an end user.

39. A method comprising:

receiving, at an intermediary processing system, a first MMS message initiated by a first application for invoking a second application with reference to a user of a

mobile device on a wireless network, the second application residing on a data network remotely from the first application, the first MMS message indicating a source telephone number assigned to the first application and a destination telephone number assigned to the user of the mobile device, the first MMS message including an API call corresponding to the second application;

detecting a predetermined indicator in the first MMS message; and

in response to detecting the predetermined indicator in the first MMS message,

identifying the second application based on the API call,

using the source telephone number to determine whether the MMS message is from an authorized requester,

operating the intermediary processing system to invoke the second application on behalf of the first application in response to the first MMS message,

receiving, at the intermediary processing system, a result of the second application executing with reference to the user of the mobile device, via the data network, and

sending the result from the intermediary processing system in a second MMS message for delivery to the first application.

40. A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the data network comprises the Internet.